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James Backhouse Walker

Reminiscences of life in  
Hobart 1840s-1860s.

W9/C6/1

W9/C6/1



Picture of Hobart 1804

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## Reminiscences.

Among the regrets of age for lost opportunities I must reckon those for the lost stories of the early days of Tasmania which I was the recipient of in my youth. If I could now recall the tales of bushrangers & of the convict regime which were current forty or fifty years ago I could write a chapter of great value to the future historian. These traditions of the elders would have been a mine of wealth as illustrative of a state of things long since passed away utterly. As it is my gleanings can be little better than a gathering of crumbs. But some of these crumbs may be worth preserving.

Mrs Ann Wade. Hospital Marquee  
Market place opp. WBSA

Hugh Germain - hunting.

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Arthur  
Franklin - } Midwood 28.

Tarleton 30

Small -

Wm Franklin

S B W. 1822

Wm Franklin

Hobart in the

Wm Franklin

'Twenties'



Davey.

AK Chapman.

Sorell -

Two Hattens.

S B W. 1822 -

J B Mather -

Hobart in the 'twenties.

Has Ellibaud.



I was born in a house then 95 Liverpool Street in October 1841. My earliest recollection dates back to the beginning of 1845. It is of a settlers house near the Macquarie River, and of the portly figure of James Dixon a good natured and eccentric old sea Captain, who hailed from the good old town of Whitby and had given up the sea for a farmers life in Van Diemens Land, after having brought out many <sup>immigrants</sup> as settlers in his good ship 'Skelton' - vide his book on H.H. & W. published at Edinburgh in 1822. He was brother to my grandfather Mather's second wife - to us children our only & much loved grandmother. He was a man of many fads, a pamphleteer on the growth of flax, and an enthusiast on jam making. The house had a lovely garden attached to it, beautiful with oaks & other English trees, & crowded with fruit trees & 'rasps' & 'berries'. When I last saw the spot, nothing remained but the foundations of the house & one solitary gate post at the entrance to the drive.



The brick walled garden was a wilderness still beautiful with English trees, & the straggling gums had taken possession of the lawn - Such has been the fate of so many of the fair homes planted by the early settlers of the twenties & thirties.

My mother & I & my infant brother George were guests at Skelton Castle for a few weeks & then we returned to Hobart Town. The journey back on the top of the Mail Coach - one of the old fashioned orthodox English type, with red coated guard blowing the orthodox horn, the Jony Heller Coachman, the crossing in the punt at Bridgewater Ferry where the causeway was yet a-building, the rattling of the Coach at night down dimly lighted Elizabeth Street, the pull up at the Derwent Hotel in Murray Street where our father was awaiting us, are even now, after the lapse of more than 50 years, distinct photographs on my memory. I can even fix the exact date, for we returned to town on



the day my father opened the H & L Savings Bank, and that was 1<sup>st</sup> March 1845.

From that day forth I have been a part of Hobart, a devoted & ardent lover of the most picturesque & charming city in the Southern Seas of Australasia. There is nothing like its views of mountain & river, the shady myrtle forest & fern glades of Mount Wellington - nothing to compare with it in Australia, or even in famed New Zealand.

~~Yet Hobart Town in those early days - in the later 'forties' - had little to boast of as a city.~~

Jan'y 1899 I suppose that the world of most children is practically a very small one, but ours was more than usually circumscribed. Hobart Town in the 'forties', prior to the gold discoveries, or as the phrase went oddly enough "before the gold diggings broke out," was a quaint & primitive little place, very much isolated from the world. It is scarcely necessary to say that there was no steam communication



with the other colonies, and therefore few of its inhabitants visited Melbourne or Sydney unless compelled by business. The pleasures of a trip in the small colonial traders were not such as to be lightly encountered. There was no steam communication between the colonies & England, but the regular London traders - sailing vessels of from 400 to 700 tons - kept us in touch of with 'Home'. On their occasional irregular arrivals we depended for home news nearly 3 months behind date. The going & coming of these London ~~traders~~<sup>ships</sup>, and of the Port Albert cattle ships and other small inter colonial traders, and of numerous American whalers in the season, kept us aware that there was an outside world.

Except for daily walks extending as far as the Queen's Domain - then always known as 'The Paddock' (ie the Govt Paddock) my childish world was mostly bounded by what could be seen from the shop door in Liverpool Street. Let me try to give you an idea of what this centre of shops looked like



in the forties. Unlike the principal streets of the great Australian cities, Liverpool Street has not been rebuilt in the last 50 years, and although it has been greatly improved & altered, there is sufficient of the old remaining to make it recognisable to an old inhabitant who should revisit the glimpses of the moon. Firstly there was Hatchorn's Emporium, though this was so far up the street as to be out of our line of vision, and it too like so many others has since put a modern face on the original plain stone <sup>group</sup> building. My father's shop was an old substantial two story stone building built by old Dick Cleburne and long occupied by him. ~~It stood back from the street & my father had brought out like~~ most of the old houses it stood back from the street & my father had added to the lower story a shop front, quite handsome for those days. ~~Closely adjo~~ Within the last year or two the whole front has been brought out & the original building <sup>has been</sup> ~~is no longer visible~~ altogether hidden by a new front, & Coldstream's Old Savings Bank Drapery Mart No forms



one of a row of shops uniform in appearance. Just below us was my grandfather's shop, R Mather & Son, now L B Mather & Son, and adjoining that my Uncle Robert's linen draper's shop in Brocks Buildings. These two buildings except for their fine plate glass windows ~~are~~ show much the same front to the public as they did 50 years ago. At the corner of Elizabeth Street stood "Halclo's", formerly Jagg's, a good two story brick building, the predecessor of the fine book shop of to day. At the opposite corner, on the South east side of the street, & extending more than one third of the way to Murray Street stood a row of two story brick stuccoed shops, not wholly unlike the present row, but smaller & meaner looking. Since that time these shops have been twice rebuilt, once after the great fire of 1854 which swept them away, and again after a second fire about 1859. Then with an interval of <sup>little</sup> shabby one story buildings shops recently enlarged & forming part of Brownell's premises, came the present



In early days a mill this piece of land  
belonged to one Fisk, whose mill stood  
about where Brownell's shop is. The  
mill race supplying the mill with water  
was led over Murray Street in a wooden  
fluming on wooden supports & dropped  
its leakage on the passengers below.

Short, thick set & stout - ~~do~~ with a large  
& powerful head - & dark clean shaved  
& strong face.



row of shops including Brownell's original  
shop & extending to Miller's corner in Murray  
Street. These were erected under building leases  
on land belonging to Geo Carr Clark, whose  
property extended round the corner & included  
the Club Hotel, the fashionable Hotel in those  
days, which added to & built out now forms  
the 'Metropolitan Hotel' in Murray Street.  
~~In early days & At an earlier period this Clark~~  
~~bought the land from I. These shops~~  
~~were this side of the street~~  
~~In this row of shops various Hebrew names.~~  
Benjamin, Solomon, Lewis Abraham,  
Lazarus, stared at you. The Jewish  
Community in those days was considerable  
prosperous & influential. On the discovery  
of gold they emigrated almost en masse  
to Victoria. One of the shops was the once  
well known watchmakers & Jewellers shop  
of David Barclay, father of C I Barclay of  
the Commercial Bank. Old Barclay was a  
a short stout Scotchman from Montrose  
a man of marked individuality, of great  
mental vigour & of remarkable mechanical



Rev<sup>d</sup> John Service - whole of Tas in 1868.

Built about 1888. A P Miller was heavily indebted  
to the F D H Bank which stopped payment 3 Aug 1891.  
Millers corner was included in the F D H Bank Lottery  
at a nominal value (with stock) of £26,000. was  
won by Smith of Western Australia (Marble Bar  
diggings) Subsequently bought back by Miller for

1895

1898

£



skill. He had a caustic tongue which he could use with effect on provocation, but was always ready for a 'crack' with a friend, and was full of a pawkie & sarcastic humour, and shrewd wit. On one occasion the Rev Banks Smith of St George's, noted for his blundering speeches, came into Barclay's shop with a watch, and said. "Mr Barclay, I want my watch mended, and ~~I am~~<sup>begin</sup> looking for an honest watchmaker." "Well, Mr Smith," said Barclay in his biting tone, "I can't say anything about the honesty of watchmakers, but I have only known one honest parson - and he had to leave the colony." Other shops were occupied by old Huttolley the cabinet maker, - and by Neilson the grocer. (father of Mrs HB Campbell) At the corner where Millers fine building now stands was a commodious shop where Nathan Moses & Co<sup>o</sup> <sup>after Saul Moses & Co<sup>o</sup></sup> carried on a wholesale business - in which Henry Dobson in later years took his first lessons in mercantile affairs. Saul Moses was wealthy & owned & lived at Boa Vista, New Town



On that, the sunny side of the Street, most of the shops were protected by canvas blinds stretched across the <sup>flagged</sup> pavement to ~~posts~~ wooden posts fixed in the curbstone. These blinds were taken in at night, and stretched the next morning with hooks when the sun got high. They were the precursors of the handsome verandahs which now stretch their grateful shade the whole length of the Street between Murray & Elizabeth Street. Though nearly all of the old buildings on that side of Liverpool Street are still standing, not one of them is unchanged. In those days all the Shop windows had small old fashioned panes. Indeed I doubt whether there was then a sheet of plate glass in any window in Hobart Town. Now every shop has a plate glass front, & many <sup>fronts</sup> have been so altered & improved as to be hardly recognisable as the same buildings.

On the opposite, that is our own side of the street, the buildings were much more irregular. Amongst a few mean two story



brick shops were a number of crazy & shabby one story wooden shanties, often with open fronts like stalls, occupied by green grocers, butchers, and small "general dealers." Above us towards Murray Street were several one story wooden houses - Next door, Hoggins had his pastry cook's shop in a dilapidated wooden building, whitewashed, or rather coloured a pale pink. At the extreme corner of Murray Street was a little wooden public or drinking shanty, with the sign of the 'Duke of Clarence'.

In the 'forties', and indeed well down into the 'fifties' - until the grant of free institutions - the dominant feature of the <sup>Hobart</sup> town was the penal establishment. Almost the first object ~~that struck~~ that struck the eye of a stranger as he entered the town from the wharf was the high brick wall of the Gaol extending round the corner of Murray Street into Macquarie Street. The quaint drab coloured brick pile of old St Davids overlooked it from one corner, and the gloomy dark stone



In 1841, out of a population of 50,000, one third (16391) were convicts, while of the remaining two thirds, the 33,826 free people, a large proportion were free by servitude or children of those who had been convicts



Criminal Court House frowned at it from the other. The Court House, flanked on one side in Murray Street by the Public Offices & the Police office, and on the other side in Macquarie Street by old Government House, gave the key note. The Old Church and Government House seemed but appendages, outworks, as it were, of the Gaol and Court. The chaingangs in yellow, pepper & salt, or parti-coloured clothing, and hideous leather caps, ~~making~~ <sup>shuffling</sup> their way with clanking chains, to or from the 'Jenchi' or Prisoners Barracks in Campbell Street, enforced the main idea, and proclaimed to townsman & visitor that the colony existed merely as a gaol for the mother country, or as was said "a dumping ground for home rubbish."

A visit to the Colonial Hospital would have confirmed the impression. In those days it was a comparatively small place, <sup>consisting of</sup> the present yellow stone building standing back from Liverpool Street among trees, and a few poor & insignificant outbuildings.



and flanked, particularly on the Argyle St side by rows of squalid wooden stalls & shanties occupied by the lowest class. It was a convict hospital, with bare white washed walls, rough, comfortless, evil smelling & dreary. The nurses - rude & often brutal convict wardens on the men's side, and equally rough & ignorant women for the female wards. It was here that Thos. Griffiths Mainwright, the Janus Heathencock of the London ~~Literary~~ <sup>Magazine</sup> world, <sup>the dilligent dandy</sup> the friend of Chas Lamb, the ~~poisoner~~ & De Quincey - the ~~forger & poisoner~~, the cruel & malignant villain, forger & murderer, was at one time employed as a warden. A poor fellow was brought in struck by mortal illness. Mainwright had some old grudge against the man. In the dead of night he came to the ~~man's~~ bed side, and kissed ~~whispered~~ in the ear of the dying man: 'Listen to me, you —. In twelve hours ~~you~~ <sup>your</sup> son you will be in hell, and my arms will be up to here in your



6— inside, cutting up your body." The Hospital was in those days more dreaded than the Gaol, and it took the better part of half a century of good management to overcome the repugnance of the lower class to enter its walls even in their direst need.

Besides Gaol, Court House & Prisoners Barracks there were the gloomy Commissariat Stores in Macquarie Street & other buildings which spoke of the Convict regime. Nor did the visitor escape the convict atmosphere when he went into the Suburbs. On Proctor's Road on the slope of the hill overlooking the town & bay was the Govt Nursery for the infants of the Convict women under sentence. If he visited the fern tree gullies at the foot of Mt Wellington he passed the gloomy walls of surrounding the parallelogram of buildings forming the Female Factory at the Cascades. On his way to New Town he saw the Queen's Orphan Schools the church in the centre flanked by two



workings, one for boys & one for girls, which sheltered some hundreds of the children of convicts & paupers. On the road to Richmond at Risdon Ferry from the punt he saw the old 'Anson' hulk, formerly a 74 gun ship, now the receiving hulk for female prisoners. As he travelled in the Coach to Browns River, then Norfolk or Launceston, or extended his journey North South East or West even from Southport to the Tamar, or from Lake St Clair to Natertoo Point (Swansea) he saw probation stations built of rough stones or sometimes of pisé or rammed earth, where gangs of prisoners sometimes hundreds in number were housed in the intervals of their work on roads, bridges, or agricultural operations. While a visit to Tasmania Peninsula would have introduced him to ~~a~~ clusters of penal settlements, with fine buildings & all the most modern apparatus of model prisons, <sup>solitary cells</sup> penitentiaries, military guards, semaphores, for the reception & management of some thousands



of England's felons. ~~to~~

To the present generation there is little to indicate the old regime which still lives vividly in the memory of the few old inhabitants. The town itself has been swept clean, or almost clean, of the evidences of the convict days. The convict buildings which remain have become so identified with other uses, that to the ordinary townsman or to the visitor they give no hint of their original purpose. Only to those on the shady side of fifty do such buildings as the Campbell Street Gaol, the Cascades, the New Town Invalid Depot &c call up visions of the days happily long passed away.

May 1891. Macquarie Street in the days of my childhood was a quiet enough thoroughfare. Suited to an old fashioned little Colonial town. It had a beauty of its own. From Argyle Street to the present Supreme Court was a stretch of white fence, a thick row of well grown dark gums within,



Long the Telegraph Office, now (1898)  
the Land Tax Office & Court House office.



Long the Telegraph office, now (1898)  
the Land Tax Office & Cook & Lewis office.



extending then shade over the foot paths  
behind them extending down to the beach  
on the Derwent & the Cove were the garden  
& grounds in which stood old Govt House.  
Two white wooden gates gave access to  
Govt House from Macquarie Street - one  
about the present line of Elizabeth Street  
opposite the Main Guard House - the other  
higher up the Street nearly opposite  
Chapman's (now Macfarlane & Co's) office  
on the end of Trafalgar Place. At the  
top of the semicircular drive thus formed,  
some distance back from the Street, ~~under~~  
in a beautiful garden & embowered in  
trees, stood the old residence of Lord,  
Arthur Franklin & all the Governors down  
to Sir H & J Young - & also down to the  
advent of Franklin the Seat of the  
Legislative Council. It was a quaint  
plain two story brick building, stuccoed  
& painted drab with a long wooden  
verandah in front running along the  
lower story. It had been added to at



various times until it comprised a considerable extent of buildings. The latest addition was a large ~~wooden~~ <sup>weatherboard annexe</sup> ball room erected by Denison, <sup>this</sup> which was the furthest extension towards Argyle Street & stood just on the site of the present Town Hall. ~~This was pulled down in the last part~~ pulled down in 1837- or 38 to make way for the present ~~Town Hall~~ Municipal Bldg. Before each white wooden gate giving access to the drive, stood a sentry box, and a red coated sentry in old fashioned coatee & shako with white wooden ball, paced up & down day & night. Opposite the lower gate ~~was the guard house~~ at the corner of Elizabeth Street was the guard house with soldiers sitting on a bench outside. This was for more than 30 years the Telegraph office but is now (1898) the office of Land Tax. Where the Supreme Court now stands was then a paddock in which one or two Kangaroo & sometimes an emu were usually to be seen. At



the time of the Crimean War scare Gov Denison erected here a small earthen battery, <sup>in</sup> which people said at the time the Gov had the malicious design of drawing the fire of the enemy's ships on the office of Mr. Chapman, then his strongest political opponent. At the corner, where the present Post Office ~~stands~~ now is, stood the Supreme Court, then used both for civil & Criminal Cases, & built about 1824, and in early days utilised for public meetings & even for religious services.

It was a gloomy building, of a dingy dirty brown stone, with <sup>low</sup> arched windows filled with small panes of glass.

The corner nearest to Govt House was worked into an odd little circular turret.

Round the opposite corner from the Balerloo (C/o Murray & Davey St) to the present Tasmanian Club (in Macquarie Street) stretched a gloomy high brick wall. A narrow raised path, guarded by posts &



Chairs ran along the Murray Street front, beneath which stood the cabstand of the town. In the midst of this raised pathway in Murray Street stone steps led up to ~~was~~ a great ~~gr~~ double folding wooden gate, with wicket & grating, above which iron arms supported a large lamp. This was the entrance to H. M. Gaol, a square red brick building which could be seen raising its head above the <sup>high</sup> wall. Here had been kept in safe custody Brady, Aborigines, Rocky Whelan, & many another of evil notoriety. Above those gates in Davey's time had been fixed the gory head of Michael Howe as a terror to evil doers. One uncanny recollection I have of those forbidding & mysterious gates, dating back to early childhood. It is but a dim & confused picture of being with my nurse on the outskirts of a rough crowd extending across Murray Street & gazing up intently to a beam above that high brick wall.



There was the figure of something like a man, though his head was indistinct, and a rope was fixed to the beam above the wall. Then there was a sensation in the crowd & the figure disappeared below the wall. I have since thought that I must have seen a man hanged. In later days, after the abolition of public executions, the gallows was under an open shed inside the walls on the Macquarie Street side with a pit & trap door under the beam running along its whole length. More than once when we lived at the Savings Bank, then at the C/o of the old Stone Buildings, the blinds of the house would be pulled down, & as we sat at breakfast we would hear the slow toll of St Davids Bell opposite. Then as the clock struck 8 there would come a heavy thud & a creak of the beam telling us that Kingy or some other



poor wretch had paid the last penalty of  
his doing. In earlier times the Scaffold  
was fixed up over the great gates in Murray  
Street so that the condemned, with Sheriff  
gallies & parson, stood on a platform in  
full view of a critical crowd, who watched  
all the details from the pinioning, & blind-  
folding, & adjustment of the rope to the  
pulling of the drop & the fall of the  
criminal out of sight. On one occasion -  
it was in the days when sheepstealing  
was a capital offence & bushranging  
was rife - about 1826-7 - no less than  
6 men stood above those ~~gloomy~~  
black gates on one morning and 5 on  
the next, to vindicate outraged law.  
The register of St Davids contains the list  
& the statement of the crimes for which  
they suffered. The Court of Requests  
above the Supreme Court was a favourite  
coign of vantage from which the privileged  
could view these scenes with comfort,  
and old John Roberts has told me that



See John Roberts story

Just under the railing of the footpath was the  
chief (if not the only) cabstand of that day.  
Consisting of 10 or 15 old <sup>two horse</sup> carriages, the cabmen  
old world jannies in strange dilapidated garments.



the Govt Officers of the Col Secretaries & Treasury in the centre buildings were accustomed to give breakfast parties to their friends on these special mornings the chief attraction being the comfortable opportunity of a good view of the last struggles of the unhappy victims of the Sheriff. It was of this ~~drop~~<sup>gallows</sup> that the once well known story of old Parson Bedford was told. A new drop had been constructed & the Chaplain had been invited as an expert to view it and give his opinion. He examined it critically & carefully, and pronounced the judgment "A very good drop. Hardly room for six, but five would hang comfortably."

Outside the gates, on the raised footpath protected by a rough railing <sup>on the side of the</sup> ~~from the~~ roadway there stood at one time the stocks for drunkards <sup>to sit in, legbound for an hour or two in meditation.</sup> & petty offenders. On one occasion John Roberts with some other young men staying at the neighbouring Watertown Hotel kept by Nat Olding, wrenched up the stocks and



Now called the Exhibition Building.



Mr Carter was the first Mayor  
succeeded by Mr Gore Elliston



When Hobart Town was made a Municipality (1853) the Municipal Offices were located in some rooms on the Collins Street front of the New Market building. In front of the offices at election times the wooden hustings for the Candidates on Nomination Day were erected, and saw some lively scenes. The Corporation offices remained in these straitened quarters until the Town Hall was built & ready for use in Sept 1866.

But to return to our former point of view of Murray & Macquarie Streets. When the Criminal Court sat the great gates of the Gaol would open and the ~~handcuffed~~ prisoners for trial would <sup>be marched across the road</sup> ~~issue forth~~ handcuffed two & two, in charge of the warders, and with a guard of soldiers with loaded muskets & fixed bayonets. The last I remember were Kingy & his mates for bushranging (about 1857) the last of the veritable bushrangers.

Opposite the Court House stood old St Davids - quite the most distinctive feature



Extract Gatz of 1817 - laying foundation stone



of old Hobart Town. The foundation laid  
in 1817 by Governor Davey, but only  
consecrated in 1823 by old Samuel Marsden  
the Colonial Chaplain from Sydney. Davey  
called it St Davids in honour of Gov David  
Collins, just as St Philip's in Sydney was  
dedicated to Gov Phillip. It was a solid  
plain brick edifice, stuccoed & painted  
a light stone colour, with long rounded  
topped windows with small square panes.  
It had a square tower in early times  
surmounted by a <sup>short</sup> wooden spire coated  
with copper, green by exposure to the  
weather. Something like St James, Sydney  
but smaller. About the spire  
was replaced by a small dome, or pepper  
box, covered with lead, which did not  
improve its architectural beauty.  
The tower contained a fine clock with 3  
large faces, <sup>visible at a long distance</sup> and it struck the hour in  
sonorous tones. The older inhabitants have  
not ceased to miss the familiar clock face  
and the full toned stroke of the hour.



Old St Davids is the centre of many memories of wedding & funeral & of plain services. It was a large & commodious church with broad heavy cedar galleries round three sides, supported on wooden pillars. In these galleries in old times the soldiers of the garrison used to sit. The ground floor was fitted with high old fashioned shut-in cedar box pews. The tramp of footsteps along the stone flagged aisles and the constant slamming of pew doors were the well remembered sounds preludeing the service. In front of the Communion rails - 'altars' are a modern innovation - rose a high old fashioned cedar pulpit with large crimson cushion ornamented with crimson tassels. Beyond the chancel with its low banister like communion rail was seen the <sup>large</sup> round arched chancel window with small panes painted in various colours. On either side of the window was the creed and the Commandments in ~~gilt~~ long gilt letters on black ground of



plaster. The Governor's pew large & square was on the left hand of the pulpit under the gallery - with memories of Sorell, Arthur, Franklin, Denison & others.

On Sundays after morning service crowds of idlers used to congregate about the Church door in Murray Street to await the <sup>coming out of the</sup> gaily dressed congregation & to follow the ~~the~~ cheerful secular strains of the white coated Military band on its return to the Barracks at the head of the Soldiers.

The Soldiers were very much in evidence in those days. Nearly a full regiment garrisoned the island, sometimes parts of two regiments, and there were often 600 or 700 men in barracks at Hobart & always a head quarters band. The officers were a great feature in society, which was strictly select in those times, and the military evolutions, the marching through the town with drums beating, band playing & colours flying, the exercises & evolutions in the 'Paddock' were a perpetual



joy to the younger portion of the population. The band used also to play on Saturday afternoons in Summer at the Government (now the Botanical) Gardens.

It is sometimes hard for us old inhabitants to realise that scenes in which the military and convicts & their military guard formed such a prominent part were the familiar every-day sights of our childhood.

To the older generation - say to those above fifty years of age - there is much still remaining to remind them of the old regime. The Australian cities & towns have been mostly either built or rebuilt since the days of which I am speaking. Except in some parts of old Sydney & a few of the older provincial towns of N.S.W. there is little left to suggest an earlier state of things. All speaks of progress - all is intensely modern. In Hobart progress has been slower. New buildings have sprung up



About 1808 see Bouwicks papers.



in the midst of the old, & have merely (so to speak) pushed the latter into the background. There have been two causes for this survival. First that the advance of the Colony has not been rapid enough to compel the complete rebuilding necessitated in other colonies by the great rush of prosperity. And secondly that the public buildings in those days were so commodious & so soundly, solidly, & in some cases handsomely, built, that they were too good to pull down, but could by alterations & additions be made serviceable for the new uses required by the change of circumstances.

Thus old residents & those familiar with the town's history can trace by existing buildings the successive strata of past times ~~flaring~~ well nigh a century.

The old Bonded Store at the bottom of Macquarie Street probably the very oldest building in Hobart, & the only existing one commenced by Goobollins, takes us back to



\* and afterwards by the Curators of  
the Museum - Roblin & a Morton  
It is shown in Craig's view dedicated  
to Geo Davey.  
old St Davids - founded 1817)

The N B Bank has had a new front  
House at W. corner of Argyle St, built by  
Lieut Ed. Lord, aftds Lewis R. auctioneers.  
and for a time by Rev Buckland for Hutchins Sch.  
Mercury Office Litho premises. aftds occ<sup>d</sup> by Chas Deal  
& Burn. At 40 Eliz<sup>th</sup> St David Lord's  
long occupied by John Lord.

Old Criminal Court 40 Macq & Murray Sts bet 1823-4

A View in Ross Al. of 1830 shows some 4 stories.

Now the Schoolroom, behind St Andrews.



the beginnings of the Settlement. A little later  
the times of Gov Davey are marked by the <sup>old</sup> Cottage  
at the back of the Museum (formerly occupied  
as a residence by the Governor's Private Secretary)  
and Macquarie House (about 1814) built by  
J. H. Birch, and still after 85 years standing  
four square and solid. Again in the antiquated  
buildings on the North Side of Macquarie St  
from the old J. D. Land Bank to the corner  
of Elizabeth Street - still standing almost in  
their original state as shown in views of 1824 -  
we recognise the first advance given by the  
immigration following 1819 during Sorell's  
Government. Some of the old stone houses & stores  
in Lower Campbell Street may date from the  
end of Sorell's administration but most of them  
with the older stores on the Old (Hunters)  
Wharf belong to the earlier portion of Col  
Arthur's government with old St Andrews  
Church (1824) the older buildings of Walker's  
Mill (Barrack & Collins Streets) the old Wesleyan  
Chapel (~~replaced~~ Mechanics Institute with new front)  
built with Arthur's assistance soon after his arrival.



Old Court Treasury - prob beginning of Arthur's time  
Macy St opposite end of Campbell St. - has been pulled down.

now Barnett's Grocers Shop -

\* The Hobart Hotel was (I believe) originally Bethune's store.

(\*) This old building is now unrecognizable having had a new front built on to it.



Arthur's public buildings were numerous and extensive. The chief were the Orphan Schools New Town with St John's Church - (building in 1831) the Penitentiary Campbell Street (since much enlarged & now the Gaol) with old Trinity Church (now used as the Criminal Court) and the Female Factory at the Cascades. His government Offices were: the Col Secs. office in the large stone house next the Theatre in Campbell Street - the Police office removed from Harrington St to 40 Elizabeth & Bathurst St opposite Home's Pharmacy. where it was in 1834 from whence in 1835 to what is now Hobart Hotel & 40 Macq & Argyle Sts. the Survey Office then located in what was aftdr N M Pike's School<sup>x</sup> in Macq St The Theatre too (the present front is later) was designed by Wm Lee Archer & erected during Arthur's rule. Before he left I think nearly all the Old Wharf was lined with large stores, & most of those at the back of the new wharf (wh he made at such a heavy cost) were erected. Among the



New building on same site

now P. A. Hinkinsons Risdore Road  
& probly Fletcher, & several others on cross road.



W9/C6/11

the bldgs from ~~Lords corner~~ the  
old TDK to Lords corner  
they recog. the first advance  
given by the ~~unimproved~~ following  
on 1819 during Sorrell's Admin.

They ~~see~~ <sup>are</sup> reminded of the 12  
Arthur's vigorous admin & the  
Shells by the old Penitentiary  
the Cascades, Orphan School  
& of the vigorous & ~~substantial~~ <sup>substantial</sup> adve.  
of conl. interests & the ~~beginnings~~  
of freedom growing power of  
free settlement in the substantial  
private houses, the stores on  
the old wharf on the new  
wharf, the old Wesleyan Chapel  
the older bldgs of Walker's Brewery  
& Mill Many old substantial  
two story brick private houses  
scattered throughout the town  
& esp. the <sup>substantial</sup> ~~great~~ <sup>large</sup> ~~house~~ <sup>house</sup> of ~~Hopkins~~ <sup>Hopkins</sup>  
Hestella

Waterloo New Hall.  
1824-36  
Freemason Old Council

Broadland No  
Old Wharf



after we come to the Constitution since 1850 it is not  
Constitution. Now are the features of  
new marked - Col Hospital (1850) St. Mary's

memorials  
Hall 1850

The Sharratts (late City office)

The more liberal regime of  
Franklin is marked by Stone  
Bldgs of a more ambitious architect  
the Public Bldgs in Murray  
St, the Customs House, Bradman  
Stores, shops in Lpool St  
St Joseph's Church - St Andrew  
Cleburnes Stores, Stone Bldgs.

They see the progress under  
Belmont & Denison in the Church  
Mount, & St Georges Hatchers  
& High School (Univ) St Mary's  
Hosp. Constit<sup>n</sup> Dock Bk Adm<sup>n</sup>  
Derwent Bk (Club) Agnew's 1850  
Ath Club (Hatsm<sup>n</sup>) Pebbs (Orient)  
Central School, Tussocks (Subm<sup>n</sup>)  
Brocks Bldgs Shops in Lpool St  
& Elizabeth St

Public office Murray St

Thus to the instructed eye the  
bldgs of Hobart form a history  
of the <sup>gradual</sup> ~~progress~~ <sup>rise</sup> of the city from



business premises, the old Commercial Bank  
& Hatcher's Emporium (the front is later)  
were built before 1834. Hatcher's old premises,  
~~Go Eliz~~ at Hellington Bridge probly a little later,  
& from about the same time must (I think)  
be dated the row of Shops in Lpool St  
(S. side from Go Murray St) & probably the  
old house where I was born, with the I B Mathew  
thor premises - of private residences there  
are quite a number remaining which  
date from Gov Lenthur's reign - Warwick  
Lodge, built by Surveyor Genl G W Evans & after  
Joey Houe's residence, before 1829 - Derwent  
Park near Jo<sup>s</sup> & Ellibraud's residence about  
same time - (Sir) A Stephen's house in Macq.  
St. (after the Queens School, Bishop Hillson's  
H R Giblin, Ladies College, School of Sisters of  
Church) must be near that date or earlier.  
In 1831 Henry Hopkins built his great  
stone mansion in Elizabeth Street, now  
Westella, and Boa Vista, New Town had  
already been built by Col Surgeon Scott  
Broadland House, (Dr Ross's residence?)  
now Hobart Club



now the Memorial Hall.



with fine garden  
- was probably another nearly contemporaneous  
Dorwent Water, Sandy Bay and Hobartville  
Coul Road (now Friends High School) are  
shown in views in Melville's Almanac for  
1834. About the same time or perhaps a  
little later, the sarcastic & masterful John  
Montagu, Franklin's rebellious <sup>Col</sup> Secretary  
seems to have rivalled Hopkins' imposing  
mansion in building Stowell on the newly  
laid out Battery Point. This list of  
private residence shows the advance  
of the Colony in wealth & comfort  
during Arthur's vigorous rule. Nor  
should we forget the handsome Scotch Church  
of St Andrew Balgarnock St built & finished  
in 1835 & opened by the vigorous & pugnacious  
Rev Doctor John Dunmore Lang.

With Franklin we have the Independents  
building Brisbane Street Chapel (1838) and  
the Roman Catholics St Josephs Macquarie St  
(1841) While in 1838 was begun the well  
known row of offices (long the great haunt  
of lawyers & known as the Devil's Row)



I believe that Franklin first had  
one of the Chambers ( the present  
Legislative Council )



Stone Buildings 90 Macq. & Murray Street,  
occupied by Allport & Roberts (under various  
changes of style of firm) for some 60 years.

1838 With Franklin too came a great improvement  
in the Public Buildings: first in time  
(probably) the Police Office in Murray Street  
(now the Treasury) where John Price presided  
as Police Magistrate, & three or four years  
later the more pretentious pile of the  
Centre Buildings (ColSec Office, Audit &c)  
with the heavy Doric portico & surmounted  
by the <sup>History Spigot of</sup> Royal Arms with Supporters & Crown.  
But earlier than this was the long range  
of the Customs House (for years half built)  
designed on a scale far in excess of any  
possible wants of the Port & now chiefly  
occupied by the Chambers of the Houses  
of Parliament which have found a fairly  
sufficient though inconvenient home for  
over 40 years. About this time too the  
line of Stores on the old Wharf was filled  
up, & if I mistake not the two large  
Ordnance Stores built at end of old Wharf.



I think too that the Main building of the Col. Hospital in Liverpool Street must date from about the time of Franklin, and perhaps the Main Guard House of Elizabeth & Macquarie Streets.

Amongst Commercial buildings I can only note 'Cleburne's' on the Murray Street bridge, afterwards Hybers' & now occupied by Crosby & Co.

This brings us to the times of which I have been speaking the days of Milner & Denison. With the coming of Bishop Nixon & the establishment of an episcopal see we have a revival in Church building St George at Battery Point (1838) long waiting for its tower, and Trinity (1846) designed by + said to have been orig<sup>y</sup> intended for the Cathedral seat of the <sup>new</sup> ~~first~~ Bishop. while the Scotch found St Andrews insufficient for their needs & built St John, Macquarie Street on land given<sup>?</sup> by David Lord - who 20 years earlier had given the Wesleyans a site for their first chapel.



With the ecclesiastical revival came a revival  
in Scholastic institutions. The first building  
of the Central School - the Govt primary school.  
was erected on the site of old Dr Bedford's  
parsonage in Bathurst Street. The Clerical  
party ~~there~~ aspired to seize control of  
the higher education of the Colony, founded  
Christ's College by donations ~~amounting~~  
to £10,000 contributed in England & Tas,  
& favoured by Denison obtained from him  
the fine block of land in Macquarie St  
on wh they erected <sup>by subscription in 1847</sup> ~~the~~ a handsome  
building for their newly established  
Hutchins School - called after the just  
deceased Archdeacon Hutchins & governed  
then & for some 35 years aftds by the Rev  
John Rich<sup>d</sup> Buckland, who with many other  
victims of the N.Z. Company had found  
fled the Hellingrove Settlement & found  
Clerical & Scholastic work in F.O. hand.

Sectarian feeling ran high in those days  
& the Clerical school met with bitter hostility  
the Scotch led by the scholarly & able Dr.



The Building now houses the University of Tas.  
from 1892.



John Lillie asserted their rights, & supported  
not only by other denominations but by many  
Church of England people, opponents of  
the High Church party, ~~in a few weeks~~  
~~raised from Donations~~ formed an Association  
to found an Unsectarian School. The shares  
were taken up in a few weeks & a building  
fund subscribed in addition. A grant  
of a site in the Foot Paddock (Queen's  
Domain) was extorted from the Governor  
and ~~the~~ handsome building erected  
(1848) of which Alex<sup>r</sup> Dawson was the  
Architect & which, ~~was~~ as the High  
School of Hobart, long ~~shared~~ <sup>disputed</sup> with its  
rival the Hutchins School the leading  
place among the Secondary or Grammar  
Schools of the Colony. The revival  
extended to private Schools - amongst these  
Philip Canaway held an honourable  
position - and his father in law ~~also~~  
old John Ratson the Shipbuilder (about  
1849) built for him a handsome  
School at 90 Macq. & Harrington St from



Afterwards Miss Lavers' Girls School. now  
occupied by the Athenaeum Club.

Trained nursing staff (female) at Hobart  
Hospital introduced 18  
Private trained nurses not available  
until some years later.

He was a son of Rev Dr Mus Bedford.  
He married a daughter of Sir Alf Stephen.  
After the gold diggings he went  
to Sydney & practised there.



the designs of Dawson the Architect of the High School.

~~The want~~ "

In those days the plight of any one without family or friends and seized by a serious illness was deplorable. There were no trained nurses, indeed the modern trained nurse was not to be obtained in Hobart until some 10 years ago. Those who professed to act in that capacity were mostly of the Gamp type - except a few who gained their living as monthly nurses, & of whom there were some capable and more or less trained. For the solitary sick man there was no refuge but the General Hospital with its rough convict wardens & all its horror.

With the view of providing for this want & especially for his own patients benefit Dr. Edward Sawdick and Bedford formed the ~~fl~~ idea of establishing a private hospital. Dr Bedford was, with Dr Offier, the leading physician in Hobart, & lived at the house in Davey Street for so many



In what year?



years past the residence of Capt<sup>m</sup> Crosby  
& his widow. I have a notion that the  
Hospital was built by subscription &  
supported in the same way. It was called  
St Mary's Hospital & was situated at the  
C/o Davy Street & Salamanca Place &  
now forms the nucleus of the Lands &  
Works Building. Sir H. Douison laid  
the found<sup>n</sup> Stone - as appears to this day -  
on 1847, and the building  
was respectable in the Elizabethan  
style was respectable not to say handsome.  
It ~~did~~ served a useful purpose for some  
years but eventually had to be closed  
from lack of pecuniary support & was  
acquired by the Government who were  
in want of a Survey Office.

The year 1835 saw the Settlement  
of Victoria by Tasmanians & a period of  
speculation & inflation set in. English  
as well as Colonial Capital was rapidly  
attracted to the colonies & English banks  
established. The Bank of Australasia was



Brickfields - Hobartville - Roseville - Beadon

building 1848 -

Battery pt small brick cottages - Sandy Bay a common & market gardens a few small brick cottages scattered along the main road - Hobbrook place a few houses - Allport Smiths, Westbrooks - Hensbys then cottages & Mauleys -

Lansdowne Crescent a waste with 3 or 4 mean little one story dwellings scattered here & there.

River Valley a farm & large gardens - Sportbidge Glebe - waste -

New Town great waste spaces - fields.



11/22/67

Rail Castle - Ship - Windmill  
Old Court House

Cottages entwined in gardens.  
No ornamental cottages.

In the days of my childhood, of  
wh I am now speaking there  
was as I have said much more  
to impress on one that the  
old regime had not passed  
away. God Ho, old St. David's  
Laol Court House were still  
Centre of town - Hob was  
then a poor little quaint  
ill built town, the bulk of  
the houses rough weathered  
cottages, or poor mean cottages  
of brick, the shops mostly  
one story & the comp. few  
two story shops mean &  
dark with small many paneled  
windows. without any architect  
pretensions. The era of handsome  
the Custom Ho. Irony Bldg built  
Trinity & St Georges, Agnews Bldg  
larger Bldg just built. High Sch



Perhaps of all places  
Darey St least altered - Barracks  
(except for public bldgs  
Girls Home (Stewarts Brewery)  
Darey St Ch. - Modelled Bldgs  
Crosbys <sup>R Crosbys</sup> - <sup>Kimmerleys</sup>  
& Cottages - )



incorporated by Royal Charter in 1835, and the Union Bank of Australia <sup>was founded</sup> two years later.

Each Bank opened a Branch at Hobart amongst the first places - in 1835 and 1838 respectively.

The Union had its first office at 90 Liverpool & Murray Streets - now Plowman's opposite Miller's corner & removed about 185- to

the premises in Macq. St next to the Tasmanian Club where it was located for more than 40 years until in 189-

it bought the premises of Elizabeth & Collins St vacated by the Bank of T & D and on its suspending payment. I am not

aware where the Bank of Australia opened in 1835 but its first permanent house

was the substantial stone building in Macquarie Street built in 18 which it occupied for years until

its removal in 1898 to the new building in Elizabeth Street.

Another Bank building of this time was the Lawrence Bank - a more pretentious building in point of architecture.



\* How the Stranger's Room of the Club



It closed its business in 18      and the building was afterwards occupied by the Hobart Exchange and the Tasmanian Public Library conjointly. There is now the Tasmanian Club House. The large room used by the Exchange\* was in the Sixties the meeting place of the Macquarie Debating Club of which I was a member & its walls used to resound to the clever rhetoric of Mr Robert Giblin, the trenchant speeches of C I Barclay, & the more or less effective oratory of Russell Young, John Hamilton, W G Robertson, Tom Whitesides, R Lucas, Henry Dobson & others who have since more or less distinguished themselves locally.

Of private residences & business premises of an improved character the days of Gov Denison produced not a few.

I may mention those of which Dawson (a Scotchman of Haddington) was the architect. Besides Canaway's School, he designed Sir Laing's House (1850) Brock's Buildings



(A Mathew Fl<sup>o</sup>), Kiscock's (now Susman's) in  
Murray Street - the stone house in Davey St  
opposite the Barracks, ~~also~~ belonging to  
old M<sup>rs</sup> Hatchorn & devised by him to his  
daughter, <sup>the first wife of</sup> M<sup>rs</sup> Jas H B Hatch, which has been  
the residence of Major Sager, the Hatches,  
Dr Altherton, Dr Benjafield & is now of  
C E Hatch whose ~~pro~~ bought it of his  
<sup>nephew</sup> Harry Hatch. Another house of Dawson's,  
further up the street on the opposite side,  
is that formerly owned by old John Fisher,  
& now belonging to his son E M Fisher.

Other houses of this period are  
Sunnyside, the residence of the late  
Mr Paul Chapman, designed by M<sup>rs</sup> Forden  
Kay, then Director of Public Works -  
and Fallis Vale at the top of Elboden  
Place built by Jas Ebenezer Richey,  
Col Secy under Denison.

I think the large stone premises of  
Lewis & Louis in Collins Street must  
also belong to this time, ~~It is so~~  
or are perhaps a little earlier. It is



said that they were built of the Stone which had been quarried for the new Govt House, wh had been planned in Franklin's time & begun but which got no further than the foundations. Of this Ray was either the original architect or the adapter of the original plans. It was finally built under his superintendence & finished in 1858, when Sir H. F. Young removed ~~from the~~ to it from the old historic house in Macquarie Street. It is said that the first plans were those of a veritable palace. But even when cut down to a comparatively moderate scale the building cost £60,000. But those were dear times, coming after the enormous rise in wages caused by the gold discoveries of 1851 and following years.

Gov Denison was a man of great capacity, and had been an officer in the Royal Engineers. With the view of reconciling the colonists to the continuance



of transportation, he planned extensive public works & amongst others large improvements to the port & city of Hobart. The colonists were however obstinately deaf to his proposals. They would have been glad of the public works, but would have none of them if their price was the continuance of the hated System. The very proposals aroused bitter opposition. Consequently the only works Denison succeeded in accomplishing were the Constitution Dock, with a certain amount of reclamation of the foreshore at the back of old Govt House the beginning of the present jetties & wharves - and the building of the New Market, which from its first opening utterly failed to accomplish Denison's idea of a market for produce.

One other project Denison did accomplish viz the building of the Kangaroo Ferry Boat for the Kangaroo Point Ferry. It was built at an enormous cost £ but has for nearly 50 years proved very useful.



"The spoiling of the Domain as a pleasure park was completed by the Govt in about 1874) granting permission to the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Co to carry its Railway into Hobart by way of the Botanical Gardens & the Domain thus cutting off the water frontage during its whole extent.



? To Capt Goldsmith.

To Denison also we owe the ill judged alienation of <sup>part of</sup> the foreshore of ~~a part of~~ the Domain, of which he granted a 99 years lease for shipyards and patent slip - now held by John McGregor.

Yet in spite of Denison's obstinate & persistent fight for the continuance of transportation to the colony & of the somewhat questionable methods which he sometimes employed to attain this end, it cannot be denied that he was one of the most enlightened, progressive, and able governors that the colony has ever had, and <sup>under</sup> other circumstances would have accomplished great things for the colony.

Up to the year 1853 Hobart Town had no municipal government the cleansing & care of the town & its improvement were provided for after a fashion by the paternal government. As the people had no political representation so there was no local government, everything was administered



Often a military man, belonging to the engineering  
branch of the Service - the 'Sappers & Miners', predecessors  
of the Royal Engineers.



responsible to the Gov. alone, was paid for out of the general revenue by a government department. The care of Hobart Town devolved on the Director of Public Works & his officials, and the work was usually performed by the chain gangs. The condition of the town left much to be desired. The lines of streets had been laid out under the direction of Governor Macquarie on his first visit in 1811 (?) and he named the principal streets: e.g. Macquarie after himself, Elizabeth & Campbell after his wife (daughter of Genl Campbell) Argyle Street after his native county, Harrington & Murray Streets after the Col. & Capt<sup>n</sup> of his Regt the 73<sup>d</sup>. Mollie & Antill after officers of the 48<sup>th</sup>. Liverpool, Melville & Bathurst after ~~Bris~~ Secretaries of State, Brisbane after Gov. Sir J. Brisbane, St Patrick at the request of Father Cornolly, while Warwick was so named by the Surv. Genl G. Evans after his birth place Warwick Castle. The streets long remained almost in their natural state but in 1827 Elizabeth & Macquarie Streets were macadamised, and gradually the principal streets were also metalled and in the forties



?  
18. Some of the Stone bridges of Wellington. Murray  
& Barrack were swept away in the great  
flood of 1854. Possibly also the wooden bridge  
in Lower Macquarie Street. The latter which  
was very low was some years ago replaced  
by the present high bridge. The Palladio was  
pulled down & replaced by the present bridge  
in 18

The Creek formerly drove a number of water  
mills. Depraves at Cascades; Macrobies a little lower;  
one near All Saints Church aftdr Searles; Bradford's  
above Mole Street; Walke's Grot Mill in Barrack  
Street; Turner's ~~L'pool St~~ bet<sup>n</sup> Barrack & Harrington  
Sts, <sup>aftdr Luckman's</sup> Mill in Collins St. above  
Murray St; Fisk's aftdr G.C. Clark's in L'pool St  
below Murray Street.



were in tolerable condition. The creek too had been bridged in several places. The first was Wellington Bridge in Elizabeth Street, for long the only bridge practicable for vehicles, The first bridge was replaced by a solid stone one, & similar bridges in course of time spanned the creek in Murray, Harrington & Barrack <sup>Parry</sup> Streets, while in Campbell Street a good brick bridge designed by R. N. Loane & called the 'Palladio' gave access to the Penitentiary. In the fifties the only crossing in Mole Street was down the steep banks & by stepping stones across the creek, after which a <sup>narrow</sup> wooden foot bridge was thrown across & it was not until 186-? that the present stone bridge was erected carrying the Street over the creek. Much had also been done in improving gradients by cutting the tops off hills & filling up hollows. eg. Upperdwerpool St, Murray St at Bathurst St, Elizabeth St behind Nestella & Patrick St, <sup>Goulburn</sup> Bathurst St towards Mole St, Harrington Street <sup>between Macq. St & Collins St</sup> &c &c and in filling up the deep gullies of the Creek & its tributaries: eg. Mole Street at



Goulburn St; Liverpool St at intersection of Elizabeth & Murray Streets (an early work) Davey St & of Harrington Street. Many of these modifications of level, which have greatly altered the aspect of the town are still easily traceable, but in other cases the alterations of buildings have completely hidden the natural contour of the ground. e.g. at Wellington Bridge &c.

The making of the Streets was performed in a primitive fashion - there was no steam roller & no blinding - the metal both in Hobart & on the Main Road, broken by hand & by prison labour was laid on thickly and left to be consolidated by the ordinary traffic, which was accomplished after months of wear to the infinite pain of the unhappy horses. It must be admitted that the final result was a hard, ~~solid~~ & ~~usable~~ roadway, greatly superior to the present, where the <sup>method</sup> ~~fashion~~ of throwing down a mixture of 1 load of metal and 2 loads of much & smoothing it with the Steam roller, produces a roadway never good at any time and



When it is remembered that the only lighting  
(until 1857) was the feeble glimmer of wretched  
oil lamps fixed on high wooden posts, it is  
not difficult to imagine the dangers & difficulties  
of a walk home at night. And we need not  
wonder that, when cabs were an unknown luxury,  
a well to do citizen should have conveyed his wife  
home from a social gathering in the hand cart  
ordinarily used for the delivery of groceries to his  
customers.



speedily becoming a shapeless, uneven and muddy quagmire.

If the ~~roads~~<sup>streets</sup> were better, the footpaths were in the centre of the city, ~~in~~ the outlying roads were in their native state and in wet weather often almost impassable for vehicles. I have very vivid recollections of the difficulties of attending the passage of funerals ~~to the~~ from Elizabeth Street to the Little Friends' Burial Ground in Providence Valley, ~~through the~~ Of course in these outlying streets footpaths were unknown & in wet weather they were well nigh impassable on foot. But even in the ~~city~~ centre of the city the footpaths were barbarous - the curbing mostly rough blocks of iron stone & the paths themselves quagmires, except for stray scraps of flagging, more or less broken & uneven, laid down opposite their places of business by the Shopkeepers.

As to drainage, it was conspicuous by its absence. The side gutters, sometimes roughly paved with cobble stones, were often unformed,



and except in the most frequented streets usually overgrown with grass & weeds extending far out into the road. In streets like Collins Street where there was little fall, the side gutters were often foul smelling swamps thickly overgrown with a marsh weed bright with yellow button like flowers.

The sanitary arrangements were equally barbarous. I suppose that in those days even water closets were unknown - for the very sufficient reason that there was no water laid on. Each house had its cesspit, which remained for months & sometimes for years uncleansed. What the cleansing (or rather emptying) of these cesspits, <sup>was</sup> by nightmen with ~~a large barrel on a cart~~ hand buckets emptied into a large barrel on wheels, anyone could judge for himself by the evidence of his senses, on most nights if he happened to extend his travels far abroad after midnight. It was potent enough to linger in the memory after more than a quarter of a century.



Things improved but little for many years. And it was doubtless due to this that epidemics were so severe. We knew nothing of typhoid in those days. But Colonial fever claimed its victims & epidemics of scarlet fever, measles &c were dreaded for their frequent virulence. In 1853 an outbreak of scarlet fever was of exceptional severity occurred & swept off large numbers of children. Mrs Sprent, lost 3 boys in one week. Gov. Denison, in a paper read before the Royal Society, called attention to this outbreak as a result of bad drainage & some improvement was made, the water supply being improved & the N. I. rivulet being made a common sewer by Act of Council. But little substantial improvement took place until many years afterwards. When we came to our present place of residence 90 Davey & Antill Streets in 1872, we found a festering pool, the overflow of a cess pit, occupying a large part of the yard, which cost considerable trouble to clean & disinfect. The cesspits, with all



their abomination remained until somewhere about 1887, when the so called earth-closet system was enforced generally. It is noteworthy that immediately following the introduction of this 'pan system' <sup>by the Municipal Council</sup> we had the very worst outbreak of typhoid with the heaviest mortality ever known in Hobart; this was the year in which CP Sprent, Jack Smith, Spotswood & many other valuable lives were lost through typhoid.

In early days the water supply was of the simplest. One of Gov Collins first orders was directed agst the pollution of the Creek from which the water supply of the Settlement was drawn. When my grandfather Mather lived at the corner of Liverpool & Elizabeth Street they simply went down the steep bank at Wellington Bridge & dipped their water with a bucket from the Creek, and at a much later date the water carts for the supply of the Penitentiary in Campbell Street used to be filled from the Creek at the Palladio Bridge at the ~~of~~ Collins Street. The first attempt to provide



pure water to the town was made by Gov  
in 18 by the construction of a small reservoir  
near the Cascades from which a stone conduit  
~~down~~ led the water down Macquarie Street  
On this conduit were erected at intervals  
square wooden towers from which water  
could be drawn. Of these one was opposite  
Hodgson's Glen House 1/2 of Darcy Street, another  
at 1/2 of Barrack St close to the Hutchins School,  
and there was a pump opposite Govt House  
at 1/2 of Elizabeth Street. At these towers  
the water carts, consistg of barrels on wheels,  
used to fill from a leather pipe, and  
sell loads of water to the inhabitants at  
1/4 a load. It is said that it was a  
practice for these water carts for the sake  
of saving the small fee charged, or perhaps  
from simple laziness, to fill their carts at  
the various mill races in the town and  
sell this polluted water to the citizens.

This conduit and the subsequent improvements  
in the water supply led to long & persistent  
disputes bet<sup>n</sup> the Govt and the Messrs Depraves



This was a covered reservoir, surrounded by iron railings & stood in the open space formed by the intersection of Hampden Road with Montpelier Road.



who claimed that their water-rights were infringed, & the controversy & consequent litigation (if I am not mistaken) was continued for many years. At a later date another small reservoir was constructed at Elborden place on Garden Crescent, & the water led in pipes to a distributing reservoir in Mount Pelier Road - opposite the present Battery Point State School, by which the shipping & part of Battery Point was supplied. The town was served from the Cascades by means of pipes until 1861 when the Reservoir at the Water Works Valley was completed at a heavy outlay, and a distributing reservoir made on the hill near the Marquis of Hastings from which the town has since been supplied. Henry Cook was Mayor at the time (whence the name 'Cook's Monument' for the valve house at the Bower) and the opening ceremony degenerated into something like an orgie, from which Hamilton the Superintendent of Police returned to beat



his wife to death that night, a crime which he only escaped expiating on the Scaffold by taking poison in his cell.

Considering the large number of wooden houses in the town, fires ~~have not been~~ <sup>have</sup> were not numerous in the old days. At one time the only means of fire extinguishing was by the primitive method of forming a chain of men \* dipping in the creek & passing them from hand to hand. At a later time fire engines of the old fashioned sort ~~worked by means of~~ with pumping bars on each side worked by hand labour were used. They could not throw the water very high. I remember that at the first big fire in my recollection - viz - Kissocks (about 1849-50) the fire originated in some little wooden buildings adjoining. The fire from these caught a large wooden water pipe which carried the rain water from the roof of Kissock's large 3 story building. The jet from the ~~fire~~ engine was not strong enough to reach this pipe which gradually burnt until it set fire to the roof & Kissock's